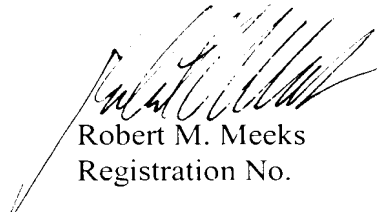


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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application, including the allowance of Claims 1-5 and 15-26, the indication that Claims 7-14 recite patentable subject matter, and the withdrawal of the prior objections to the drawings. To expedite allowance and issue of the present application, Applicant has rewritten Claim 7 in independent form incorporating the recitations of Claim 6, and have canceled Claim 6. Applicant request entry of these amendments, as they introduce no new matter, raise no new issues, and place Claims 7-14 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 21, 2003.



Candi L. Riggs